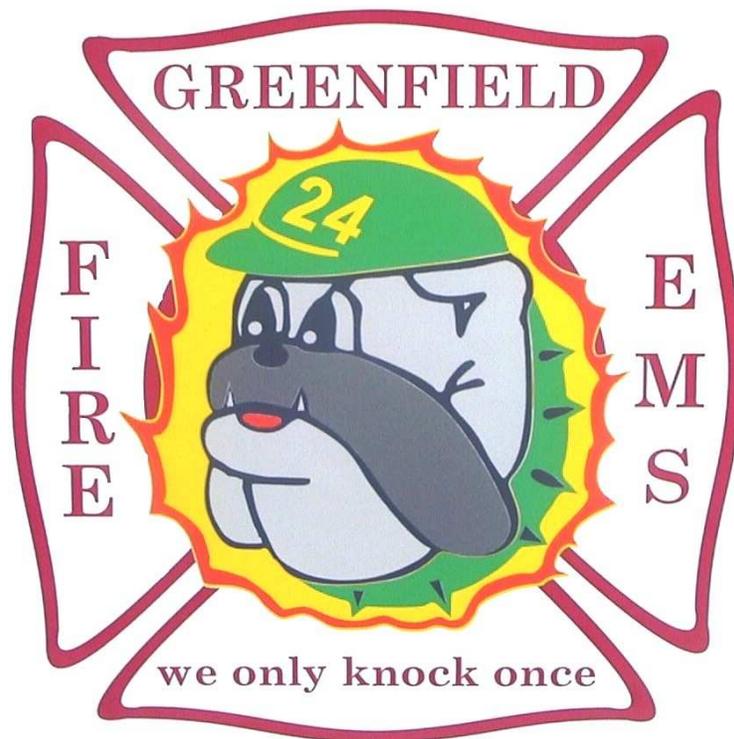


Greenfield Township Volunteer Fire Company

424 Route 106, Greenfield Township, PA 18407



2007 Annual Report

January 1, 2008



**Greenfield Township Volunteer Fire Company
2007 Annual Report**

Greenfield Township Board of Supervisors
424 Route 106
Greenfield Township, PA 18407

January 3, 2008

I am pleased to provide you with the following report of the Greenfield Township Volunteer Fire Company activities for the year 2007.

Response Experience

During 2007, we responded to 396 calls for assistance, which is a negligible increase from the previous years 393 calls with no significant shift in the call volume by type. However, this represents nearly 100 more calls per year than we experienced in 1997; and a 204% increase from 1994, when we first began keeping detailed reports.

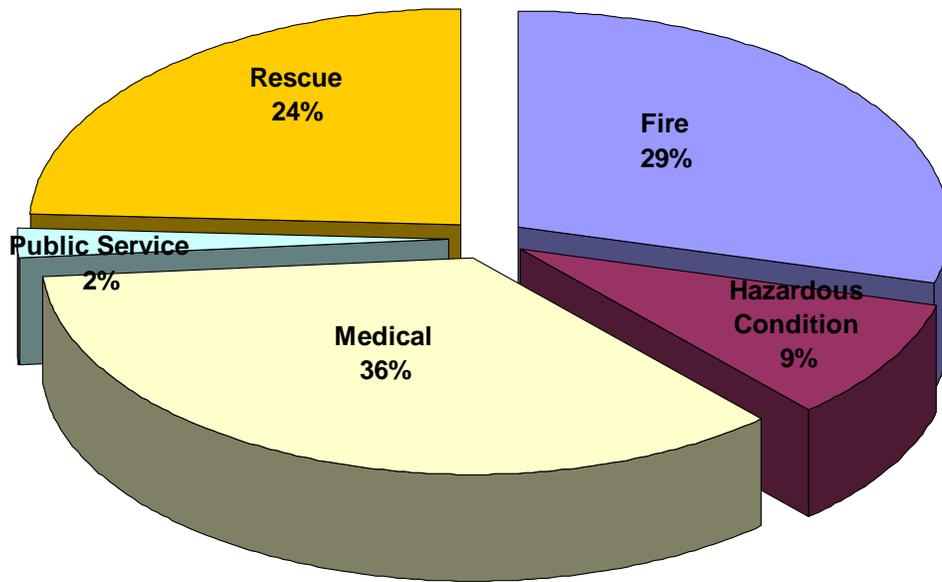
The responses for 2007 are summarized as follows:

Type	Count	Percent	Type	Count	Percent
Fire			Hazardous Condition		
Brush/Grass/Trash	11	2.8	Carbon monoxide incident	2	0.5
Building fire	39	9.9	Chemical Investigation	10	2.5
Relocate to Another	6	1.5	Explosion	2	0.5
False Alarm	45	11.4	Natural gas or Propane Leak	1	0.3
Mutual Aide Drill	2	0.5	Combustible liquid spill	3	0.8
Controlled burning	7	1.8	Power line down	13	3.3
Vehicle fire	5	1.3	Tree Down, Wind	6	1.5
Sub Total	115	29.1	Sub Total	37	9.4
Medical			Public Service		
Medical Emergency	133	33.6	Assist police	5	1.3
Non-emergent Standby	7	1.8	Public service	3	0.8
Sub Total	140	35.4	Sub Total	8	2.1
Rescue					
Motor vehicle accident	96	24.1			
Sub Total	96	24			

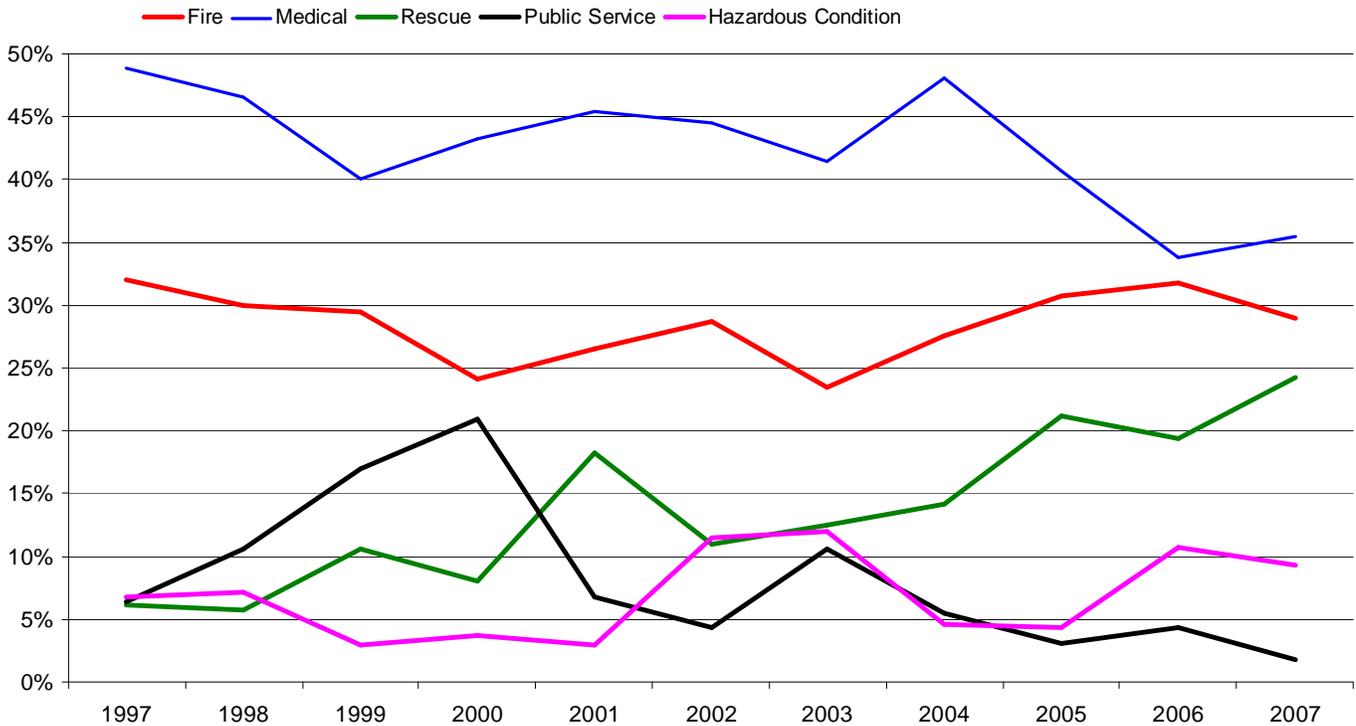


Greenfield Township Volunteer Fire Company 2007 Annual Report

2007 Incidents by Major Type



10 year Incident Trend, by Major Category





**Greenfield Township Volunteer Fire Company
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Mutual Aid

We continue to work closely with surrounding fire departments to share resources and maximize the service provided to the public. By pooling resources, we have been able to maintain a high level of service while minimizing operational expenses. Because of these strong working relationships, 44.2 of our responses are outside of the Township.

Out of Township Response Profile**			
Community	of Responses	Community	of Responses
Greenfield Township	55.8	Carbondale Township	1.3
Clifford/Lenox Township	25.5	City Carbondale	1.3
Scott Township	8.6	Benton Township	1.0
Fell Township	3.0	Other*	3.5

*represents responses to 10 other communities

**percentage of total responses

While Greenfield Township Volunteer Fire Company does use its resources to support other communities, they in turn support our citizens. With the decline in volunteers over the last decade, communities must join forces, to provide service.

The following is a list (not all-inclusive) of the organizations routinely responding to assist Greenfield in 2007.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Archbald Fire Dept | Forest City Fire Department |
| Carbondale City Fire Department | Jessup Hose Co |
| Chinchilla Hose Co | Justus Fire Department |
| Clifford Fire Co | Lackawanna Ambulance Paramedic |
| Community Life Support Paramedic | Lack County Emergency Management Agency |
| Cottage Hose Co Paramedic | Wm Walker Hose Co. Mayfield |
| Dalton | Meredith Hose Company |
| Fell Township Fire Department | Network Ambulance Paramedic |
| Fleetville Fire Company | Uniondale Fire Company |

Response Profile

In reviewing occupancy classes of our response volume, we find that:

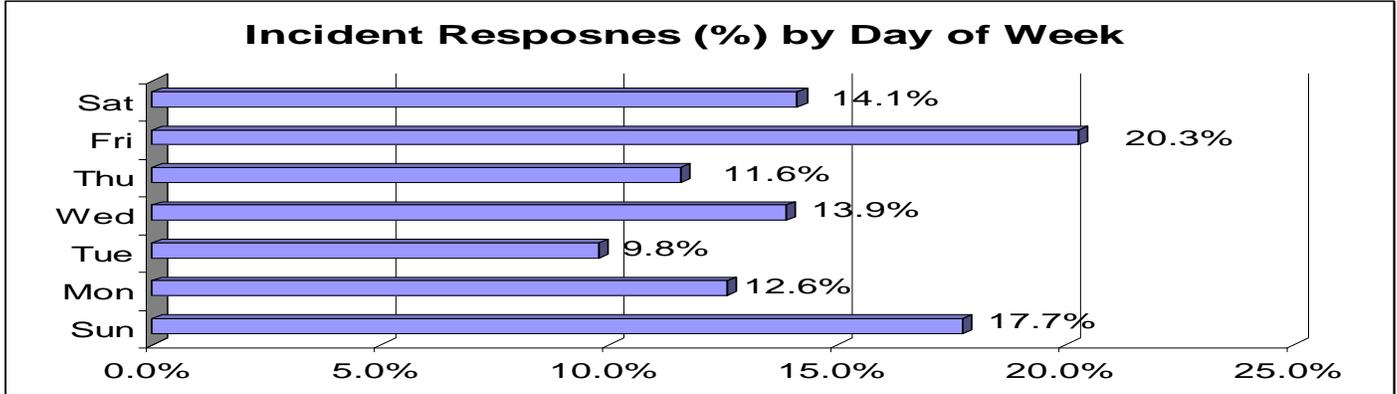
- 76.7 of the medical emergencies occur in residential structures.
- 58.3 of the rescue calls were eon I81.
- 54.3 of the fires were in residential buildings.
- 35.2 of the false alarms occurred in residential buildings



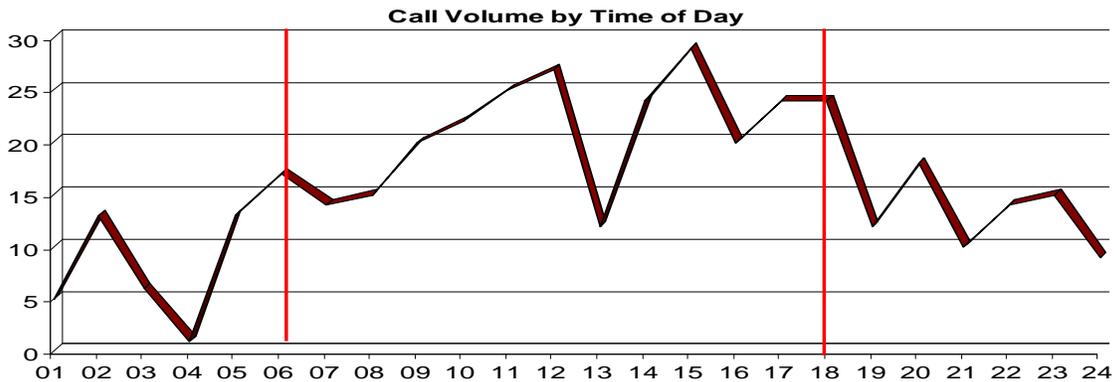
Greenfield Township Volunteer Fire Company 2007 Annual Report

Call Distribution

In 2007, Friday had the highest frequency of responses, followed by Sunday; then Saturday and Wednesday.



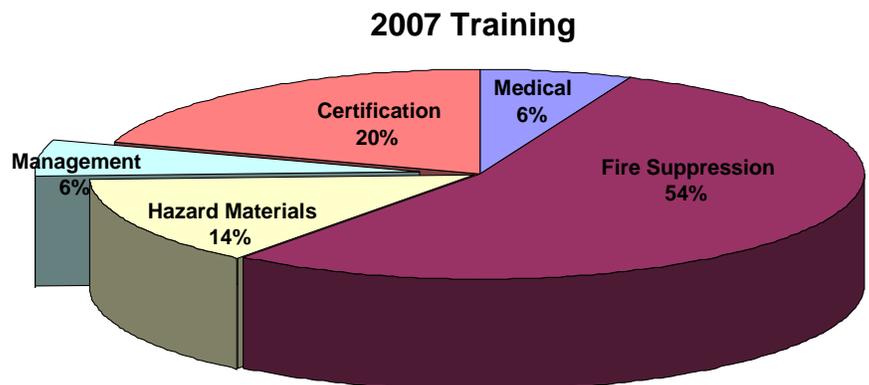
Historically our greatest call volume has occurred during the day light hours (7am through 4pm). However, in 2007, we saw a slight broadening of that time span to be 6am until 6pm. This period represents a significant challenge in that the lowest staffing period for the volunteer fire service is the traditional 1st shift period (i.e. day light hours).



Training

Our training was focused on sharpening skills in fire suppression, preparing for certification, and hazardous materials response. Our members participated in a wide variety of programs, each designed to enhance the response capabilities of the Township.

These efforts resulted in membership completing 1,948.5 hours of training during 2007.





**Greenfield Township Volunteer Fire Company
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Certifications

Greenfield Township Volunteer Fire Company has long been an advocate of emergency responder certification. We are exceptionally pleased to report that our members collectively achieved certifications in 30 different areas and levels. This is more than any other department in Lackawanna County and includes:

National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications (NBFSPQ)

The NBFSPQ provides recognition and certification of fire fighters and other related emergency responders. Certification shows that the fire fighter has demonstrated proficiency and an ability to do the job in accordance with nationally recognized standards published by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).

Certification	# of Members*
NFPA 1001, Fire Fighter - Level 1	22
Fire Fighter - Level 2	19
NFPA 1002: Driver/Operator - Pumper	12
Driver/Operator - Tanker	5
NFPA 1006, Rescue Technician - Vehicle and Machinery	12
Rescue Technician - Confined Space	12
Rescue Technician – Trench	1
NFPA 1021: Fire Officer - Level 1	2
Fire Officer - Level 2	2
Fire Officer - Level 3	1
NFPA 1041: Fire Service Instructor - Level 1	7
Fire Service Instructor - Level 2	7
Fire Service Instructor - Level 3	1
NFPA 472: Responder to Hazardous Materials Incidents - Awareness	30
Responder to Hazardous Materials Incidents - Operations	20
Responder to Hazardous Materials Incidents - Technician	3
NFPA 1031, Fire Inspector - Level 1	1
Fire Inspector - Level 2	1
NFPA1035, NFPA 1035, Public Fire and Life Safety Educator	
NFPA 1521, Incident Safety Officer	2
Health and Safety Officer	2

National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)

The NFPA provides recognition and certification of professionals involved in fire protection and inspection through certification programs. Certification shows that the fire service professional has demonstrated advanced proficiency, knowledge, and skills in the field of fire protection and prevention.

Certification	# of Members*
Certified Fire Protection Specialist Board (CFPS)	1
Certified Fire Inspector (CFI)	1

International Codes Council (ICC)

The ICC provides recognition and certification of professionals involved in fire protection and inspection through certification programs. Certification shows that the fire service professional has demonstrated advanced proficiency, knowledge, and skills in the field of fire protection and prevention.

Certification	# of Members*
---------------	---------------



**Greenfield Township Volunteer Fire Company
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Fire Inspector I	1
Fire Inspector II	1

Pennsylvania Department of Health - Emergency Medical Services

The Department of Health is the lead agency for emergency medical services (EMS) providing training and certification of emergency medical service providers. Certification shows that the fire service professional has demonstrated proficiency, knowledge, and skills in pre-hospital emergency care.

Certification	# of Members*
Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)	14
Basic Vehicle Rescue Technician	10
Emergency Medical Technician - Paramedic (EMT-P)	2

Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA)

PEMA is the lead agency for emergency response to the release of radiological materials, providing training and certification of responders. Certification shows that the responder has demonstrated proficiency, knowledge, and skills for responding to radiological incidents.

Certification	# of Members*
Radiological Monitor	7
Radiological Monitoring Officer	3

* Many members hold multiple certifications, thus total do not reflect the total number of active company members.

Equipment

Breathing Air Compressor

In October, we replaced our outmoded breathing air compressor with a newer model. This compressor serves not only the air consumption needs of Greenfield, but is used by two mobile cascade systems as their source of air. Without the Greenfield compressor, these mobile units would need to travel up to 30 miles to refill. Simply put this compressor serves, through the mobile air units, more than 40 communities with an estimated total population of 140,000. The previous compressor was being operated in excess of its original design pressure of 4,500 psi. In order to meet the demand of the mobile storage units in the area, the output pressure has been increased to 6,000 psi and a deliver rate of 21.5 cfm (more than double the previous unit). The new compressor was purchased with funds from the Assistance to Fire fighter Grant program, with a price tag of slightly more than \$28,500.

Gas Meters

In September, we placed five multi-gas monitors in service. The equipment was part of a federal grant provided by the Commercial Equipment Direct Assistance Program (CEDAP), which is administered by the Department of Homeland Security. As part of the grant package (estimated at \$20,000), Fire Fighter Evans traveled to Huston to be trained, along with roughly 200 other firefighters from around the country. The training included methods for deployment of the meters, which not only monitor for carbon monoxide, flammable gases, and hydrogen sulfide (sewer gas), but also contain sensors that can detect the presence of volatile organic compounds. The meters were one of only two such CEDAP grants awarded in the northeastern part of Pennsylvania (i.e., Wayne, Pike, Lackawanna, Susquehanna, and Wyoming Counties), as part of the 2006 CEDAP Grant Program. The other was for a thermal imaging camera awarded to the Greenfield Township Police Department.



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Apparatus

Response Profile

Greenfield Township equipment responded to calls for assistance as follows:

Unit	Total Responses	Total Hours	Total Miles
Ambulance 24-9	251	290.93	3,053
Chief/car 24	65	70.97	622
Decon unit	4	6.35	111
Engine 24	163	189.94	1,754
Tanker 24	35	65.31	337

This response profile is similar to the response profile for 2006, and previous years with slight adjustments in individual unit usages.

Fleet Status

Overall, the fleet is sound. The Decon, Chiefs, car, and ambulance are in good condition. Tanker 24 has completed its upgrade, as outlined below. The largest area of concern is the repair of damage to engine 24, which is address below.

Tanker 24

We completed pump upgrade to Tanker 24 in March of 2007. This upgrade is part of a change in the way we shall deliver service. Before the upgrade, Greenfield was operating a 1995 tanker with a 500-gpm pump. Our normal operational mode is for the engine to lay into the fire from a cross street, and the tanker to provide a nurse. In many circumstance the 500-gpm delivery rate is sufficient to control and extinguish the fire. However, when larger flows are required, or greater application time is required, a full tanker dumpsite must be erected. This requires the tanker to be shut down and moved out, folding ponds to be placed and an additional engine put in place to supply water.

Upgrading the pump to 1,250 gpm, allows the tanker to remain in place during a nurse operational and rapidly set up a tanker dumpsite, with the tanker acting as the supply. This eliminates one engine from the scene and only requires a tanker to be added to the alarm to cover for the loss of ours.

Engine 24

Engine 24 was involved in an accident on I81, in December, that caused damage to the body and pump assembly. Simply, put gravity, the basic laws of physics, and a slippery access ramp; led to the engine sliding sideways into a flat bed truck. No one was injured during the accident, to which we are very grateful. However, the damage to our engine was significant. Due to the damage, the engine has been removed from service and shipped to update New York for repair. In the interim, we have purchased a 1972 Hahn Fire Engine from Dickson City.

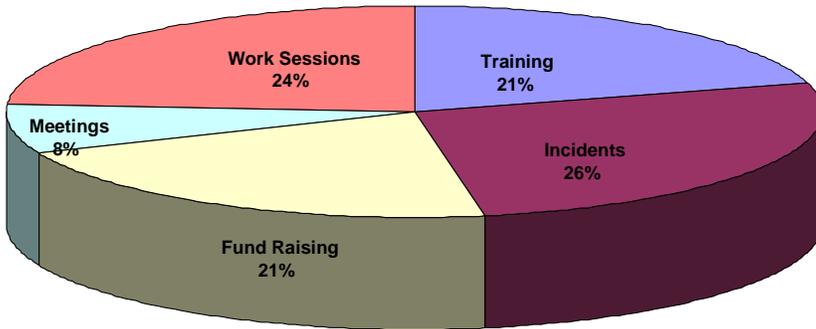
While the engine does not provide the same flexibility and capabilities, it does provide some basic protection for the community until our engine is retuned. To address the reduced capacities of the replacement engine, the nearby fire departments have been moved up to an earlier alarm to fill in the void created by the accident.



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Membership

Staff Hours



One of the greatest challenges facing the emergency services is the declining volunteer base. The members donated 9,492 hours of their time to provide services to the residents of Greenfield Township during 2007.

By comparison, no other civic organization gives as many or as difficult hours as the members of our company.

This is equal to 4.5 full time equivalent employees. Based on the average wage and benefit rate for the fire service these members have saved the community approximately \$250,000.

Currently, expend as much time trying to raise operating funds as we do in training. Such a pace will cause the existing membership to burn out and stop responding. Further, the time spent fund raising is a counter incentive to recruitment of young members. Several studies have shown that young people who are asked to train and provide a service to their community are more likely to do so if they are not required to raise money.

The concern of the decline in volunteerism is the subject of the report, *Retention and Recruitment for the Volunteer Emergency Services, Challenges, and Solutions*, published by the U.S. Fire Administration. Greenfield Township is referenced within the body of the report, concerning the decline in the emergency services volunteers and the impact such a decline has on fire fighter safety.

“In 2004, Pennsylvania experienced 17 line-of-duty deaths, the most of any State in the country. At the same time, Pennsylvania has two-thirds fewer firefighters than it did 30 years ago. Many have questioned if the lower number of members have been a cause for some of the deaths. Chief Fred Bales of the Greenfield Township Fire Department has stated that fewer personnel on the fireground can force firefighters to do the work of two or more people in emergency situations. Pennsylvania Fire Commissioner Ed Mann reports that 9 of the 17 deaths were caused by heart attacks. He further commented that it is possible some of those nine were working too hard to make up for a lack of firefighters.”

Several key points were noted in the report including:

- “Although the recruitment and retention challenges continue to grow, some volunteer organizations maintain good membership while others continue to function with reduced numbers. Those organizations that seek solutions and adapt to our changing personnel environment are successful.”
- “The surge in the number of two-income families since the early 1970s has meant that people have very little time to volunteer.”
- “The consensus of fire chiefs from across the country is that the public’s expectations of the fire department are greater today than in years past. The public expects the fire department to provide assistance for emergencies that include fires, fire alarms, carbon monoxide alarms, broken water pipes, natural gas leaks, medical emergencies, vehicle accidents, hazardous materials spills, mysterious odors, structural collapse, extrications, water rescue, and even bomb threats or terrorist incidents.”



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Another area that was a focus of the report includes the increase in actual call volumes:

- “During the same time in which the number of volunteers has declined, the volunteer fire service has had to contend with an increase in the volume of emergency calls due to the lack of education on when to call 9-1-1.”
- “The public has not only grown to expect a wider range of services from the fire department, but also has grown to rely more heavily on the fire department.”

The report is available to residents of the United States, at no charge through the USFA Website at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/applications/publications>.

As we move forward, the department and the Supervisors need to re-evaluate the methods by which the service is being funded and look for more cost effective measures to provide for and maintain services. Clearly, the hours being spent on generation of funds, could be better placed into use for training.

Targeted Goals for 2008

We have several goals for 2008, all of which are focused on providing continued service to the Township and our surrounding communities. They are:

Recruitment

Recruitment of additional members is a critical concern for the Township. We see that our ability to provide trained firefighters at least 80 of the time is limited to an average of 3 persons during the day light shift (6 am until 6 pm); which is less than the minimum required by NFPA 1720. As a non-hydranted community, a major portion of our incidents use a water tender operation. As such to meet the staffing requirements of the FSRs we need an additional one additional person to manage the tanker. During our night periods (6 pm until 6 am), our average responding firefighters is slightly higher at 5, but still below the 6 needed for NFPA 1720 and the 7 needed to maintain sufficient water supply for initial attack.

Of the current 38 members, only 20 are responders and of those, 12 are qualified firefighters. The remaining are administrative personal and EMT's, and similar support staff. Typically volunteers are pro-rated on a 1/3 basis, thus in order to average 1 firefighter per call there should 3 available (see FSRs staffing calculations). Thus, to meet the minimum for NFPA 1720, we would need 18 qualified firefighters or 24 to meet the FSRs. Keeping in mind that this staffing does not allow for additional operations such as ventilation.

This lack of staffing sets the stage for a dangerous scenario, where initial operations put the driver in the position of being the Incident Commander and Safety Officer in addition to running the pump. Two firefighters are deployed into buildings with out the protection of a backup team. Such operations are not only in direct violation of both NFPA 1500 guidelines and in OSHA's 2 in 2 out rule; they are extremely dangerous and will lead to a firefighter death. After several near misses, where fire conditions worsened and placed the crews in peril, Greenfield adopted a stance of non-entry unless a savable life exists or sufficient personal are on scene to provide rapid rescue in the event of a firefighter emergency occurring.

Without an influx of new members, both for administrative and tactical duties, the fire company will not be able to keep pace with the increasing demand for services (an average of 3.6 increase in call volume each year). The Greenfield Township Volunteer Fire Company is looking to the *Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grant* (SAFER) program to assist in enhancing our recruitment and retention efforts, by providing funding to implement a focused campaign, aimed at recruitment of new firefighters', supported by



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an aggressive recognition program aimed at retention of existing and future members. We are hoping that seed money from that program will allow us to develop and implement a comprehensive retention and recruitment program.

Several elements of the retention program also act as a recruitment incentive, such as the salary protection provisions of an accident and disability policy. Coupled with provision for preventative care such as physicals, we will place a focus on value for time spent and a sense of belonging. As such, we see the retention projects to be focused on the elimination of out of pocket expense for image related items such as uniforms. Further, these image items act as rewards for performance and as a marketing tool to the public.

However, we will be unable to implement this program if we do not receive support from the Federal Government in the form of a Grant. Without this support, we will continue to see a decline in our personal resource pool, ultimately leading to the need to hire employees to fill the void during the daytime hours.

Training

Our training focus for 2007 will be at development of the new recruits and national certification for existing members. As always, we will continue to maintain our professional certifications in Hazardous Materials and Emergency Medical Care. We will be placing a significant amount of resources toward internal training programs designed to teach our members some of the concepts that are more complex related to fire protection engineering.

Request for Assistance

For several years, we have been requesting that the Township Supervisors under take replacement of the road signs that have been lost to vandals and mechanical damage. Further, we have raise concerns as to the sub-standard compliance with the addressing and house identification ordinance of 1998.

With the increase reliance on mutual aide, and drive to bring new members into the department, it is critical that the street signs be replaced, and that enforcement to of house numbering begins. All too often, we find that out side units cannot find streets, due to missing signage. Further, we find that there still are a number of residents who do not have proper house numbers displayed.

As we move forward in the next two years we expect to be re-evaluated by the Insurance Services Office, to determine the fire protection rating, and ultimately the insurance lost cost basis for Greenfield Township Street signage and house number can play a factor in the overall effectiveness of emergency responses in the Township.

Thus as spring approaches we ask that the Township dedicate resources to replacement of the street signs. Following that activity, we ask that the Township begin a marketing campaign to educate the public as to the importance of proper identification of proprieties. Following the education campaign, we ask the Township Police begin enforcement of the ordnances.

Sadly, after 10 years of trying to educate the public, we still find a significant number of properties lacking in mailbox and house numbering. Thus, in some cases it seems enforcement will be the only recourse to achieve compliance.



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Closing

The biggest challenge over the next year will be to recruit, train, and retain members. It has become increasingly more difficult to recruit members and even harder to retain them. We need every citizen to step forward now, and give a little of his or her time.

The members and officers are grateful that we have enjoyed a strong relationship with the Township Supervisors. In closing, I would like to thank you for the support, trust, and encouragement that you have given to the Fire Company.

Respectfully submitted

Fred M. Bales, CFPS, CFI
Chief – Greenfield Township Volunteer Fire Company.